

Virginia Board of Counseling

Guidance on Meeting Degree Program Requirements

For Professional Counseling Licensure:

Regulation 18VAC115-20-49 (Degree program requirements) states that in order to qualify for licensure, there must be a sequence of academic study with the expressed intent to prepare counselors as documented by the institution.

Academic courses of study accredited by CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) or CORE (Council on Rehabilitation Education) shall be considered as satisfying this standard.

Academic courses of study not accredited by CACREP or CORE may be considered as satisfying this standard if:

- a. Preparation for the practice of counseling is the primary emphasis throughout the academic curriculum (evidence: curriculum description, student transcript, course syllabi);
- b. The intent to prepare professional counselors is stated explicitly in the description and/or mission statement of the course of study within the program (evidence: program description and mission statement) and;
- c. Primary emphasis on the practice of counseling is evidenced in the training and experience of identified program faculty (evidence: faculty biographical information).

Applicants from non-accredited programs may be required to provide evidence of compliance with regulation 18VAC115-20-49 in areas where compliance is not readily apparent. Applicants may expedite the review process by using the above criteria to assess their compliance with 18VAC115-20-49 prior to submitting their application materials. Providing supplemental evidence of compliance along with the initial application can help to avoid delays due to subsequent Board requests for additional information.

For Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure:

Regulation 18VAC115-50-50 (Degree program requirements) states that in order to qualify for licensure, there must be a sequence of academic study with the expressed intent to prepare students to practice marriage and family therapy or a discipline related to the practice of marriage and family therapy as documented by the institution.

Academic programs approved by CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) or COAMFTE (Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education) as programs in marriage and family therapy shall be considered as satisfying this standard.

Academic courses of study not accredited by CACREP or COAMFTE may be considered as satisfying this standard if:

- a. Preparation for the practice of marriage and family therapy is the primary emphasis throughout the academic curriculum (evidence: curriculum description, student transcript, course syllabi);
- b. The intent to prepare marriage and family therapists is stated explicitly in the description and/or mission statement of the course of study within the program (evidence: program description and mission statement) and;
- c. Primary emphasis on the practice of marriage and family therapy is evidenced in the training and experience of identified program faculty (evidence: faculty biographical information).

Applicants from non-accredited programs may be required to provide evidence of compliance with regulation 18VAC115-50-50 in areas where compliance is not readily apparent. Applicants may expedite the review process by using the above criteria to assess their compliance with 18VAC115-50-50 prior to submitting their application materials. Providing supplemental evidence of compliance along with the initial application can help to avoid delays due to subsequent Board requests for additional information.

For Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner Licensure:

Regulation 18VAC115-60-60 (Degree program requirements) states that in order to qualify for licensure, there must be a sequence of academic study with the expressed intent to prepare individuals to practice substance abuse treatment or a related counseling discipline as documented by the institution.

Academic courses of study may be considered as satisfying this standard if:

- a. Preparation for the practice of counseling is the primary emphasis throughout the academic curriculum (evidence: curriculum description, student transcript, course syllabi);
- b. The intent to prepare counselors is stated explicitly in the description and/or mission statement of the course of study within the program (evidence: program description and mission statement) and;

- c. Primary emphasis on the practice of counseling is evidenced in the training and experience of identified program faculty (evidence: faculty biographical information).

Applicants may expedite the review process by using the above criteria to assess their compliance with 18VAC115-60-60 prior to submitting their application materials. Providing supplemental evidence of compliance along with the initial application can help to avoid delays due to subsequent Board requests for additional information.